



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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GROUP 3600

Application No: 09/939,860
Filed: 08/27/01
Title: Biodegradable Plant Shell
Applicant: Cook, Lynnwood C.
Group: 3643
Examiner: Griles, Bethany L.

Atty. Docket: COOK 3.2

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE A

In response to the Office Action mailed January 14, 2004, please amend the claims in the above-identified patent application by amending claims 1, 4, 9, 11, 12, 13, and 14 in the manner set forth in the attached claim amendments.

REMARKS

The indicated allowability of claim 4 and the allowance of claims 16-19 are gratefully acknowledged. In the present amendment, claim 4 has been placed in independent form. This claim is therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

With regard to the merits, the rejection of claim 1 over Clendinning, et al. U.S. Patent No. 3,919,163 is respectfully traversed. Claim 1, as amended, specifies that the wall of the container disintegrates rapidly as a result of exposure to water, with the structural integrity of the container being lost within about one month after the shell is planted in the ground and subjected to water.

The plant shell of the present invention provides a simplified means for insuring that a plant has adequate growing media and water retention capabilities when it is newly planted in the ground. In the past, it has been customary to mix various constituents together, such as top soil, peat moss, manure, and fertilizer on site and place such ingredients in a hole or in a pot in which a plant is to be planted. The present invention simplifies the prior system and provides the right